November 4, 2014

The Honorable Mark Pryor
Chairman
Subcommittee on Communications, Technology, and the Internet
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
United States Senate
512 Dirksen Senate Office Building
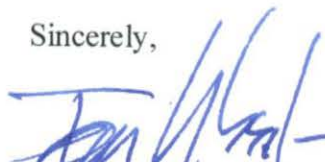Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Pryor:

Thank you for your letter conveying your support for the recent proposed changes to the Commission's rules governing E911 location accuracy. The Commission has a statutory responsibility to preserve certain core values even as technology – and consumers' use of that technology – evolves. Nowhere is that imperative more clear than in the arena of public safety. Your views are very important and will be included in the record of the proceeding and considered as part of the Commission's review.

The data you cite in your letter about the increasing prevalence of 9-1-1 calls from wireless phones highlights how much the facts on the ground have changed since the FCC initially adopted E911 wireless location accuracy rules. Those original rules were written when wireless phones were a secondary means of communication and primarily used outside. Today, however, more and more consumers use wireless phones as their primary means of communication, and 9-1-1 calls are increasingly being made from wireless phones while indoors. Our rules need to reflect these new realities.

The proposals on which we sought comment in February of this year seek to ensure that our rules continue to evolve along with technology and changing consumer habits. In addition, the input we expect to receive from the Communications Security, Reliability and Interoperability Council will be a critical component of this process. Commission staff is closely reviewing the record, and we hope to move forward with a decision soon.

Thank you again for your support and for being a leading advocate on this critical issue. I look forward to working with you and your staff in the future on these and other important public safety issues.

Sincerely,

Tom Wheeler